



Late Backup

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 091912 5c

Date: September 19, 2012

Subject: Briefing on Jeremiah Ventures Draft TCEQ Texas Land Application Permit

Motioned By: Jennifer Walker

Seconded By: Mary Ann Neely

Recommendation

The Environmental Board recommends that City Council continue contested case hearing on the Jeremiah Ventures, Draft TCEQ Texas Land Application Permit.

Rationale:

- The City of Austin staff presentation says that the application rate is excessive given geological conditions.
- Jeremiah Ventures is the first major application of effluent on recharge zone.
- Direct connection between upland areas, where effluent is proposed for application and the underlying aquifer.
- Onion Creek (a major creek with numerous recharge features) bisects property several times. Onion Creek has the most influence on the recharge of the Edwards Aquifer because of its large watershed.
- Current settlement agreement between Jeremiah Ventures and BSEACD, LCRA and Hays Co. may not be sufficient to protect the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer from pollutants such as Nitrogen and Phosphorus.
- The City of Austin has made a substantial investment (30 million dollars) in Water Quality Protection Lands in this part of the county for the purpose of preserving and protecting water quality in the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer.
- Numerous recharge features have been identified in the property. These features are not all protected by buffers (per the current settlements with LCRA, BSEACD, and Hays County).
- The survey method used by staff to identify recharge features was limited to 100' transects while the preferred methodology is 50' transects. More recharge features than those identified are likely present.

Vote 5-0-0-2

For: Maxwell, Anderson, Neely, Schissler and Walker

Against:

Abstain:

Absent:

Recused: Gary, Perales

Approved By:

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair